

Social Interest Turns to Amateur Theatricals

Activities Centre Around Entertainment for Lenox Hill Settlement at the Ritz-Carlton This Week and the Junior League Show Next Week

THERE are two forms of amusement that apparently never lose their fascination—private theatricals and costume dances. And in spite of the faint-hearted objections that are made whenever the question arises of how best to utilize amateur talent in tableaux, a play or a costume affair of any sort, there is always available a long and generally satisfactory list of those who are willing to take part. Amateur talent in these days also, it is understood, is not in the least amateurish, especially in comparison with what it was a generation ago, while unlimited wealth and carefully trained taste have developed a knowledge of dress that makes the costume ball of today a wonderful spectacle. Anachronisms of dress are no longer to be noted and mocked at. Not even to the best known of costumers is left the final decision in matters of detail, and as no expense is spared, no amount of time is thought too great to bestow upon minute parts of the costume, it is scarcely remarkable that the result is highly satisfactory.

Naturally the rivalry is keen; that is as it should be, for more interest is awakened, incidentally the extraordinary latitude in questions of dress now permitted is to a marked degree helpful in securing the picturesque results. The older women and men also having a chance to add to the mise en scene while costumed becomingly, it is small wonder that society is so deeply interested in the various costume affairs now being organized.

As for the amateur performances given for charity's sweet sake, rehearsals are being held morning, afternoon and evening, and so many are already enrolled as actors that it might seem as though there would not be left enough people to provide even a free list audience. But a summing up of the numbers of those who are in society this winter is as surprising as the number of motor cars that the traffic squad has to reckon with.

Then there is a very strict social law of reciprocity in regard to all charitable entertainments—a law of give and take. I buy tickets and go to your show, you must buy tickets and appear at mine. So an audience can always be counted on. And all the girls and men who can dance are busy practicing the new steps for the dances or studying their parts and, instead of all, are selling tickets in a way that would make a theatre manager green with envy.

The Colony Club has done its moving and its new home is already considered the most desirable of places wherein to entertain. The charms of the new clubhouse have been widely discussed; not the smallest of descriptive details seems to have been omitted, even the canine pets of the subscribers having their comfort perfectly looked out for, and if a few—just a few—of the original members might regretfully, if sub rosa, for the moment, and contentedly more home-made atmosphere of the old club, they are quite in the minority. The majority are loud in their appreciation of the more magnificent and formal surroundings as being more in keeping with the prosperity of the times—and the members, after talking at the Colony Club have always been away from home, and since the removal to the more spacious quarters it can be carried out in a delightfully perfect fashion, although a bit expensive.

Most brilliant is the opera this winter. Both the stage setting and the costumes are of the most effective order. Old time operas are produced, and old time fabrics and fashions are seen, but modernized and harmonized to a degree of finish and perfection all unknown to the older days. Only occasionally is the mise en scene staged allowed to slip back to heart-breaking dressing rooms, very rarely among the audience is there to be seen a gown that is not smart and up to date.

With always some function more or less brilliant to go on to after the opera, it is essential that women indeed the gowns and jewels displayed are marvelously striking and effective. Not only are the older women effectively gowned; young girls this winter do not attire themselves in the simple little white gowns accorded by writers of fiction to the debutante, but wear every color of the rainbow and the most superb of materials, and elaborate jewels are no longer considered only suitable for the older women.

There is so much going on in the way of private entertainments, rehearsing, skating and dancing that never was there a season when so little attention was paid to the pro-



MRS. JOHN W. MINTURN. Photo by Ira L. Hill.

spective grades and bridegrooms. There are to be several weddings before Easter, but not until Lent comes in, so announce the brides to be, can they devote any time to planning the trousseaus and wedding, and announcements of rumored engagements are being held up for the same reason. There is a veritable carnival of gaiety, as will be demonstrated by an inspection of the engagement pad of any social favorite. As for the unrecorded engagements, the most charming of all, the extensive affairs, said to be the surest proof of being a social favorite, they are many in number, and "no one knows what the day may bring forth," to quote one young woman greatly in demand. When the rush does shakeen up a bit, when the most absorbing entertainments are over and done with and there are no more rehearsals, then will come the stock taking and the announcement of engagements.

The extraordinary number of furnished apartments and houses that have been leased since the beginning of the year would indicate that there is still much left of the winter season. Almost without exception those who are now coming to town are counted on the lists of the social elite, and they frankly admit they have "come in" in order to "go out"—a delightful, contradictory phrase, but easily understood by those who know the shillaboth of society.

Many young married couples who delight in the joys of country life now find week ends all sufficient and the pleasures of city life engrossing. All this means many informal dinners and dances in town and out of town, skating and an enjoyment of life that can never be attained by those who spend too many consecutive months within the city gates. Entire colonies have moved into town for the short time left before country life again

becomes fashionable, and these same colonies are delightfully clamorous while, by no means out of touch with the social life, which now is at the height of its winter season. Nassau, Palm Beach, Bermuda and the Southern resorts, Hot Springs and the White Sulphur, have not been able so far to lure many away from the charms of New York, and while every hotel proprietor of every Southern and Western resort is confidently expecting a record season, he must possess his soul in patience for a while longer. When Lent begins there will be an exodus; even now the hotels are opening under favorable auspices, but there is so much pleasure and amusement at hand in New York that the Southern season may be late. But let no one who would be considered fashionable try to believe it can be eliminated.

It is as essential as is a knowledge of dancing, skating and bridge, without which no one can be secure of his or her position. It is almost better to be in New York in August than to be found here in March. The weather conditions in the latter month may be more endurable, perhaps, but is anything more unfashionable?

The past week has not been lacking in interest, though parties have been less frequent. The Black and White ball of Tuesday night found Sherry's crowded, and it was a financial success, thus crowning the efforts of the ladies of the Auxiliary of the Lenox Hill Hospital, who had been working for weeks to make it one. In addition to the regular receipts from the sale of tickets Mrs. W. Pierson Hamilton received some handsome checks for the hospital work of the auxiliary, whose mission extends to the care of the needy. The majority of the costumes worn were combinations of black and white, although some guests did not heed the request, coming in a variety of colors, such as are ordinarily worn at dinners or balls of the season.

The chief event of this week will be Mrs. Astor's dinner and dance at her home, 840 Fifth avenue, on Tuesday night. Those asked to the dinner will include mainly the married friends of the hostess, their juniors coming later for the dance. It is expected that many will attend the Lenox Hill Hospital, and Thursday, which will be for the benefit of the Lenox Hill Settlement, for which institution an amateur circus was given

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ABRAHAM AND STRAUS

Every Subway Station
Is a Direct Entrance to
Abraham & Straus

Running time, by Brooklyn Express, to our Private Subway Station, Hoyt Street, is as follows:

From	To
96th St.	25 min.
72d St.	22 min.
Grand Central	17 min.
14th St.	13 min.
Brooklyn Bridge	9 min.
Bowling Green	5 min.

Keeping Step

It has been calculated that Greater New York has wrested from Greater London the distinction of being the largest city of the world, for corresponding areas. One of our prominent financiers predicts 10,000,000 population for the Greater City within a few years.

To New York's present growth, the Borough of Brooklyn is contributing by far the largest percentage. Our spacious areas of unused territory are filling up rapidly. As they develop, their various sections are being more closely linked together—witness the newest time-saver, the extension of the Fourth Avenue Subway to 86th street, Bay Ridge—15 minutes to the doors of The Store Accommodating!

This Store—old enough to be a recognized Brooklyn institution, with its fifty years of perspective—is at the same time young, active, alert and vigorous. It is KEEPING STEP with Brooklyn's progress, as is indicated by THE BIGGEST SIX MONTHS' BUSINESS the period now ending in the Store's history.

How Is This Being Done?

By fair, accommodating, straightforward methods of business dealing.

By having, at all times, THE GOODS PEOPLE WANT; by having them FIRST, and by having many things that can be found NOWHERE ELSE as people are constantly telling us.

By LOWEST PRICES—quality considered—which, in turn, come from large buying for INSTANT CASH, and small profit-margins, which we can well afford, because we own our own property at a low valuation and do not have to pay excessive rents.

By CENTRAL LOCATION—as easily accessible nowadays from the Bronx and Upper Manhattan, by direct Subway connection, as we always have been to Brooklyn.

Of Abraham and Straus public helpfulness, the fine January Sales now progressing are ample evidence. The Store's news, from day to day, is mighty interesting and profitable to you!

Our Greatest Sale of Refrigerators

Two cars arrived last week bringing from the West our first shipment of new 1916 models of the famous Indiana and North Star Refrigerators. Purchased before the advance in prices, and we are going to give them to the public (for you surely will anticipate not buying a few months later) at a substantial saving from the former prices.

The "Indiana Refrigerator" made of all hardwood, golden oak finish, brass, nickel plated, hardware and woven wire shelves, perfect insulation and economical in ice consumption.

Capacity With Depth Height Reg. Now	Price
40 Lbs. 21 1/2 x 35 1/2	\$7.98
Same, white enamel lined	\$8.98
60 Lbs. 25 1/2 x 42 1/2	\$9.98
Same, white enamel lined	\$10.98
80 Lbs. 29 1/2 x 49 1/2	\$11.98
Same, white enamel lined	\$12.98
100 Lbs. 33 1/2 x 56 1/2	\$13.98
Same, white enamel lined	\$14.98

Apartment house style, the popular New York Refrigerator. Ice and provision doors opening in front.

Capacity With Depth Height Reg. Now	Price
75 Lbs. 20 1/2 x 30 1/2	\$12.00
Same, white enamel lined	\$13.00
90 Lbs. 22 1/2 x 32 1/2	\$14.00
Same, white enamel lined	\$15.00
120 Lbs. 24 1/2 x 34 1/2	\$16.00
Same, white enamel lined	\$17.00
150 Lbs. 26 1/2 x 36 1/2	\$18.00
Same, white enamel lined	\$19.00

Subway floor, East Building.

FURS! At 33 1/3 to 50% Reductions

Some very advantageous purchases, and sweeping reductions from our own stock, enable us to make this splendid offering, beginning Monday.

The Fur Coats and Small Furs are all of the high Abraham and Straus standard of quality—excellent pelts, fashioned into desirable models.

Near Seal (Dyed Coney) Coats at \$49.75. Were \$64.50 to \$92.50.
Persian Lamb Coats at \$64.50. Originally from \$95 to \$195.
A Group of Many Coats Reduced to \$19.75.
A Few Mole Coats Remaining at \$19.75.
Caracul Coats at \$33 1/3 to 50% Less than Former Prices.
45-Inch Hudson Seal Coat with Chin Shunk Collar, Cuffs and Deep Border of Natural Shunk, the Bottom Flare 108 Inches. \$175.00.
Seal Coat Short Model, Beaver or Shunk Trimmed, \$98.50.
40-Inch Hudson Seal Coat, Plain Full Model, \$110.
40-Inch Hudson Seal Coat, Natural Shunk Collar, \$132.50.
Natural Hair Seal Coats.
Reduced from \$225.00 to \$112.50.
A beautiful model with 18-inch border of Hudson Seal; also Hudson Seal collar and cuffs.

Fur Scarfs and Muffs at 33 1/3 to 50% Less

Hudson Seal Muffs, \$12.50; Chinchin Scarfs, \$9.50.
Scotch Mole Muffs, \$16.50; Scarfs, \$12.50.
Nutria Muffs, \$10.00; Scarfs, \$6.50.
Dyed Blue Fox Muffs, \$35.00 and \$32.50.
Fine Black Fox Muffs, \$25.00; Scarfs, \$16.50.
Taupe Fox Muffs, \$25.00; Scarfs, \$12.50.
Natural Shunk Muffs, \$18.50 and \$21.50.
Second floor, Fulton street, Central Bldg.

Ready! A Spring Nosegay of Beautiful Dress Cottons for 1916

This Annual Spring Exhibition and Sale of the new Wash Cottons signals a notable triumph over obstacles caused by conditions abroad.

You will agree when you have seen it, that in freshness, in charm, in variety, and in the matter of price, it is unequalled in Greater New York.

It establishes, for one thing, the American cotton-weaving art on a new plane of beauty. Foreign Wash Goods, to be sure, are well represented—delightful new creations by Rodier, king of his craft abroad; crisp figured Voiles, pure Ray Dress Linens, in all favorite shades. But the American goods take first rank. There are exquisite border designs—scores of them—on sheer Voiles; in wonderful printings; dashing new Skirting Fabrics which will be greatly worn this Summer; new ribbon striped effects on Voile.

These are all shown in our

COTTON GOODS NOVELTY STORE.

Now specially arranged on the Street floor, West Bldg.; there are all the standard weaves—each the best obtainable of its kind and all marvelously low in price. Some of the most striking groups:

45-in. Imported Flouncings
In exquisite designs in silk on fine chignon, Voile of American make, \$1.00 to \$3.84 yard.
Fashion's demand for these charming weaves is already most pronounced.
At 33c, 40c, 45c, 50c, 55c, 60c, 65c, 70c, 75c, 80c, 85c, 90c, 95c, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 1.60, 1.70, 1.80, 1.90, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 2.60, 2.70, 2.80, 2.90, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 3.60, 3.70, 3.80, 3.90, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 4.60, 4.70, 4.80, 4.90, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 5.60, 5.70, 5.80, 5.90, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 6.60, 6.70, 6.80, 6.90, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 7.60, 7.70, 7.80, 7.90, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 8.60, 8.70, 8.80, 8.90, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 9.60, 9.70, 9.80, 9.90, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 10.60, 10.70, 10.80, 10.90, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 11.60, 11.70, 11.80, 11.90, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 12.60, 12.70, 12.80, 12.90, 13.00, 13.10, 13.20, 13.30, 13.40, 13.50, 13.60, 13.70, 13.80, 13.90, 14.00, 14.10, 14.20, 14.30, 14.40, 14.50, 14.60, 14.70, 14.80, 14.90, 15.00, 15.10, 15.20, 15.30, 15.40, 15.50, 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